

Fifty Year Perspective on Federal Initiatives in Child Abuse

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1950s and 1960s

Child Abuse and Neglect as a Private Trouble

- Professional Initiatives
 - Kempe et al 1962 JAMA paper
 - Estimate Incidence
 - Assumptions About Cause
 - Lobbying for Federal Involvement
- Federal Initiatives
 - Children's Bureau Drafts a Model reporting Law

1970s

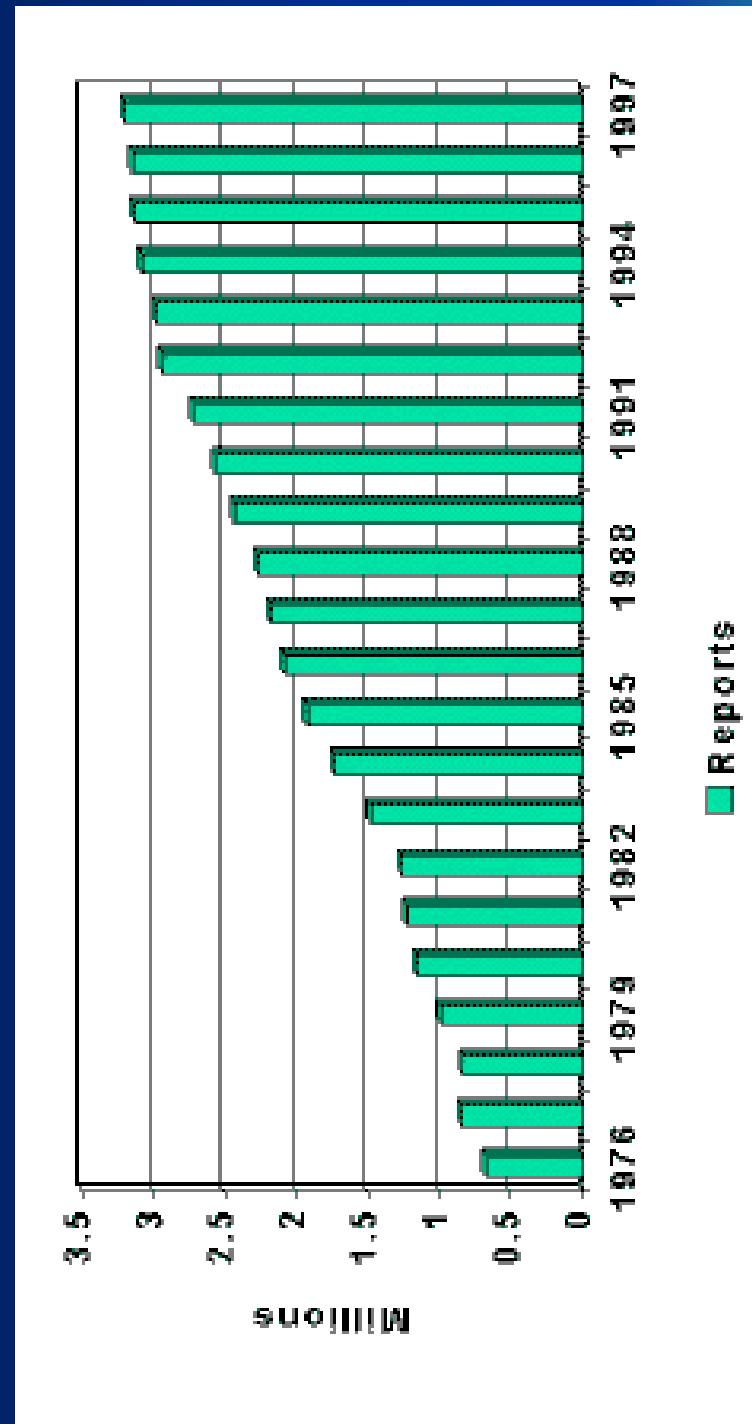
From Private Trouble to Social Issue

- Professional Initiatives
 - Increased scholarly publication
 - Higher estimates of incidence
 - Evolution of the Causal Model from Psychopathology to Social Psychological/Social Stress

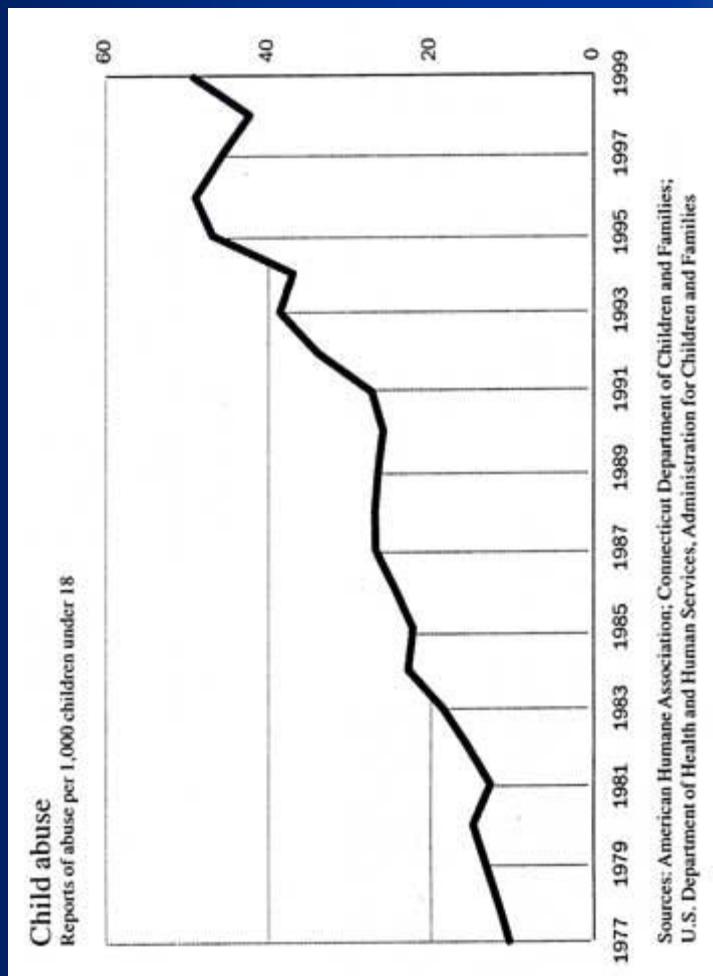
1970s Continued

- Federal Initiatives
 - 1972 Federal Conference
 - 1973 Senator Mondale convenes hearings
 - 1974 Enactment of CAPTA
 - 1975 Doug Besharov appointed first head of National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect
 - First National Incidence Survey
 - Research and Demonstration Funding

Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect



Increase in Reporting Rates



Foster Care Placements 1962- 1980

1962	272,000
1963	276,000
1964	287,000
1965	300,000
1966	309,400
1967	309,600
1968	316,200
1969	320,000
1970	326,000
1971	330,400
1972	319,800
1973 -1979	NA
1980	302,000

1980-1988

- Professional Initiatives
 - Increased research
 - Increased demonstrations and evaluations
 - (e.g. Cohn and Daro)
 - Increased concern over foster care drift
- Federal Initiatives
 - Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act if 1980 (PL96-272)

Impact of 96-272 on Foster Care Placements

- Foster Placements: 1981-1990

1981	274,000
1982	262,000
1983	269,000
1984	276,000
1985	276,000
1986	280,000
1987	300,000
1988	340,000
1989	387,000
1990	400,000

1990-1996

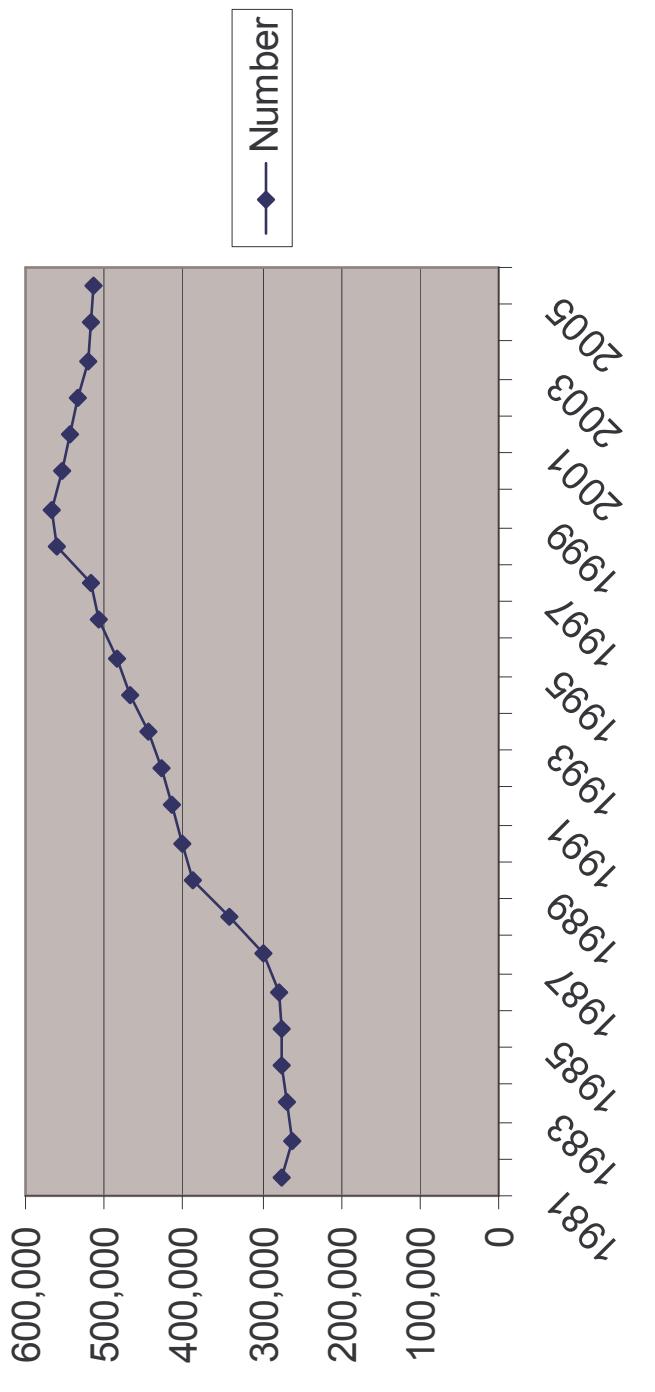
- The Clinton Years and Increased Support for Family Preservation and Support
- Professional Initiatives
 - Intensive Preservation Services
 - Home Health Visiting (Olds et al).
- Federal Initiatives
 - Family Preservation and Support Act of 1993 ("Family Preservation and Family Support Services," added to the Social Security Act. Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, P.L. 103-66)

Trends in Foster Care

Figure 3: Number of Children in Foster Care

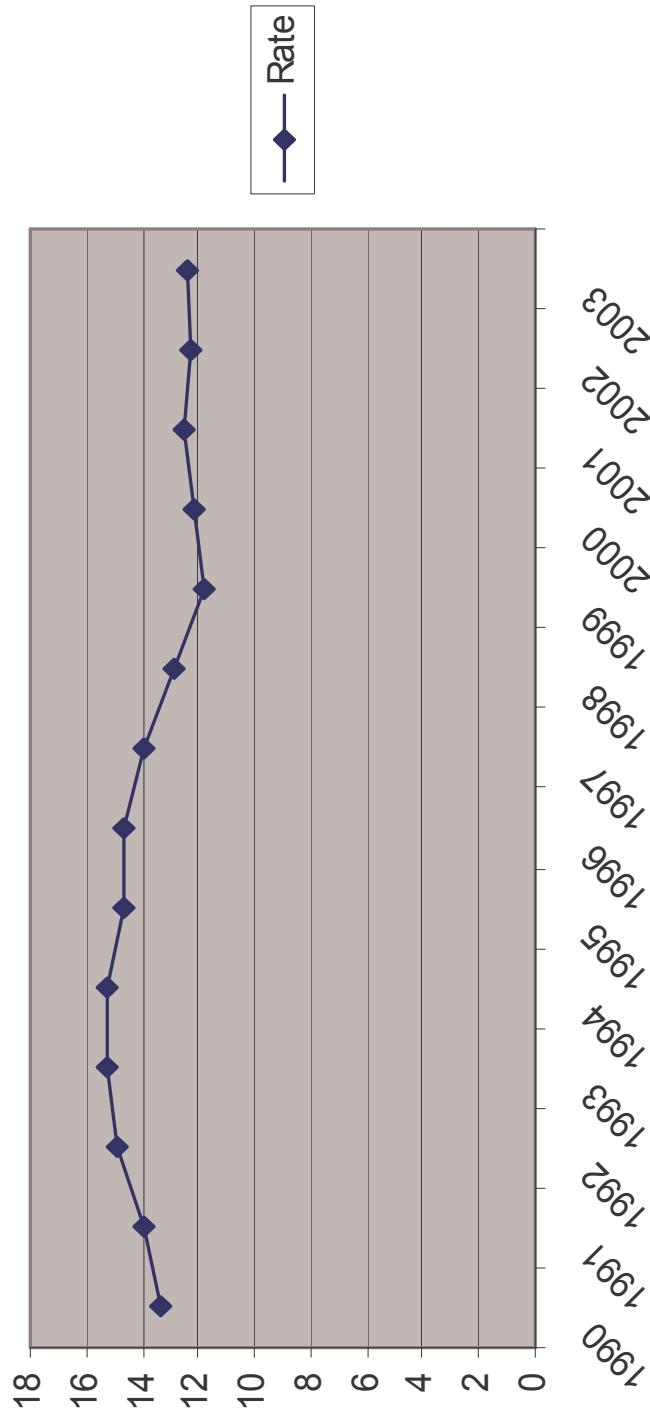
1981 - 2005

(Source: AFCARS, 2007)



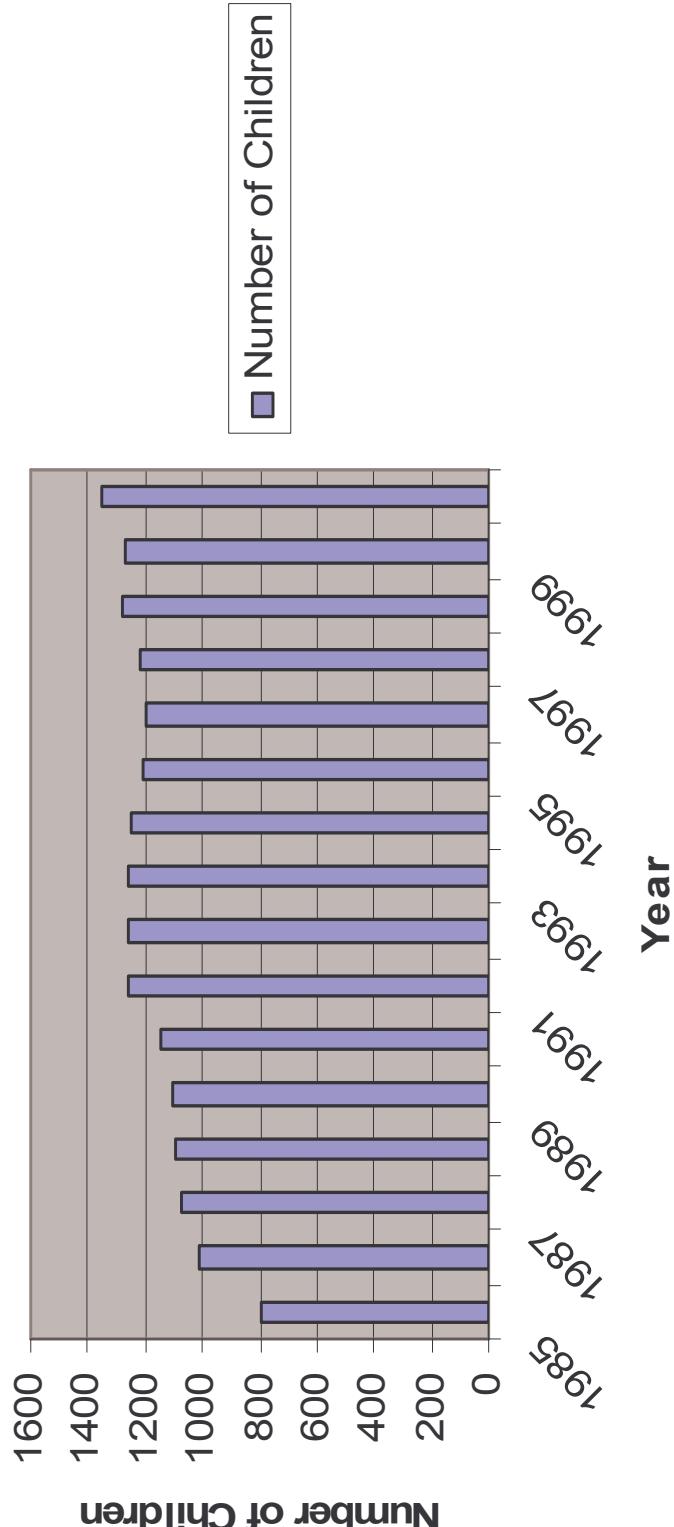
Trends in Child Abuse Victimization

Victimization Rates, 1990-2003



Child Abuse Fatalities

Number of Child Fatalities in the US



Adoptions from Foster Care



1994-1997

- Newt Gingrich and the Contract With America
- Professional Initiatives
 - Hold onto the gains
 - Oppose any and all cuts in entitlement
- Federal Initiatives
 - Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L. 104-193

1994-1997 Continued

- Efforts to address barriers to adoption
 - Multi-Ethnic Placement Act of 1994 (PL 103-382)
 - Inter-ethnic Adoption Provisions of the Small Business Job Protection Act (PL 104-193)
- Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-89)

Goals Of ASFA

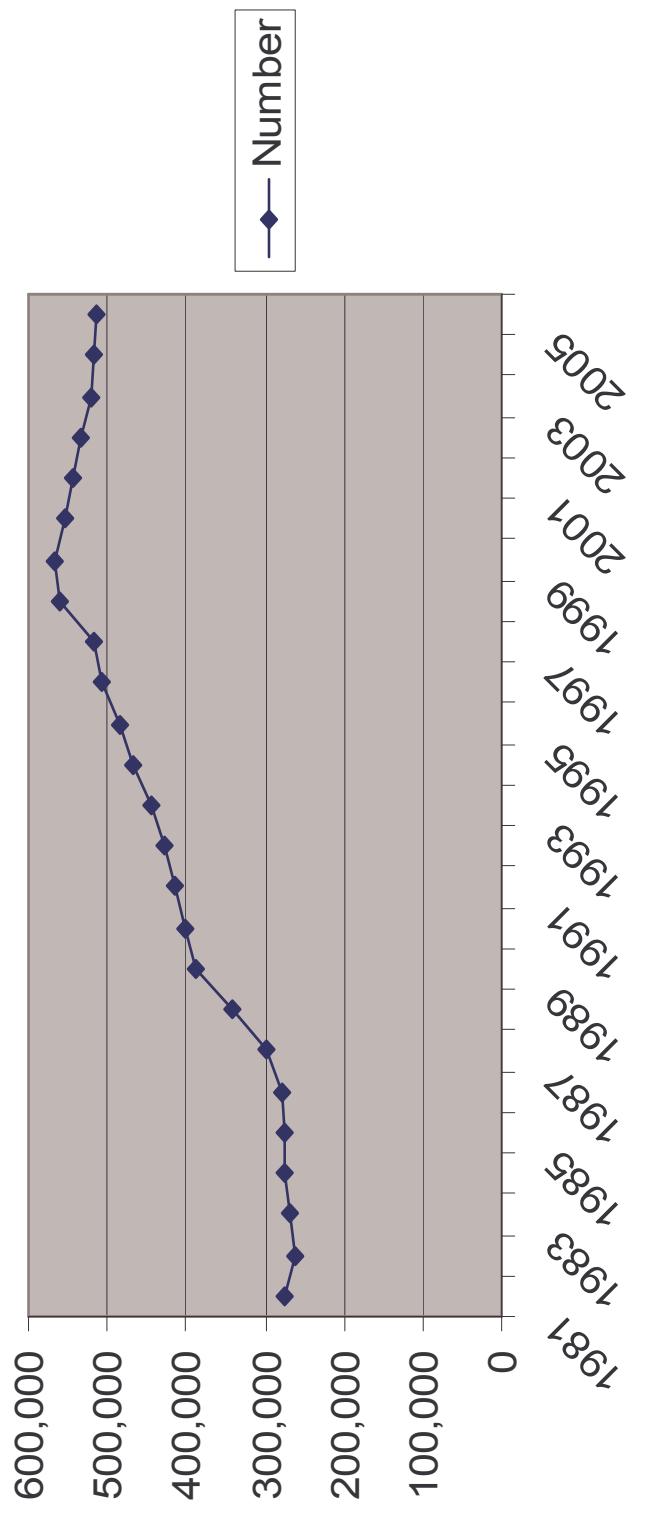
- Reduce Barriers to Adoption by establishing timelines for decision-making
- Reduce length of time children spend in foster care
- Increase permanence for children in the child welfare system
- Increase safety for children in the child welfare system
- Establish performance goals for CW agencies

Outcomes: Children in Foster Care

Figure 3: Number of Children in Foster Care

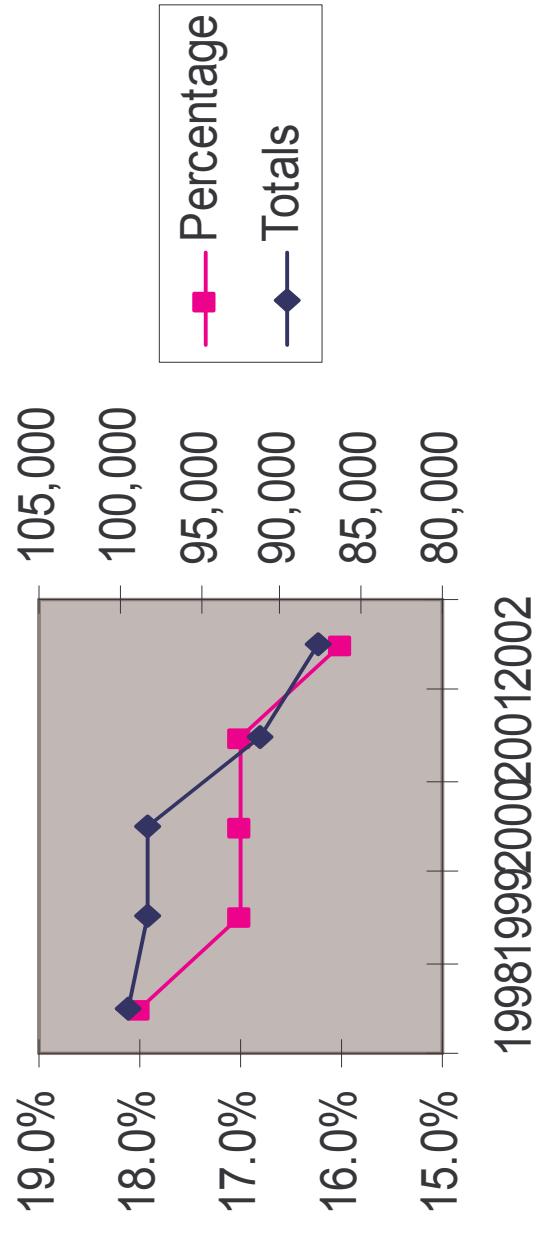
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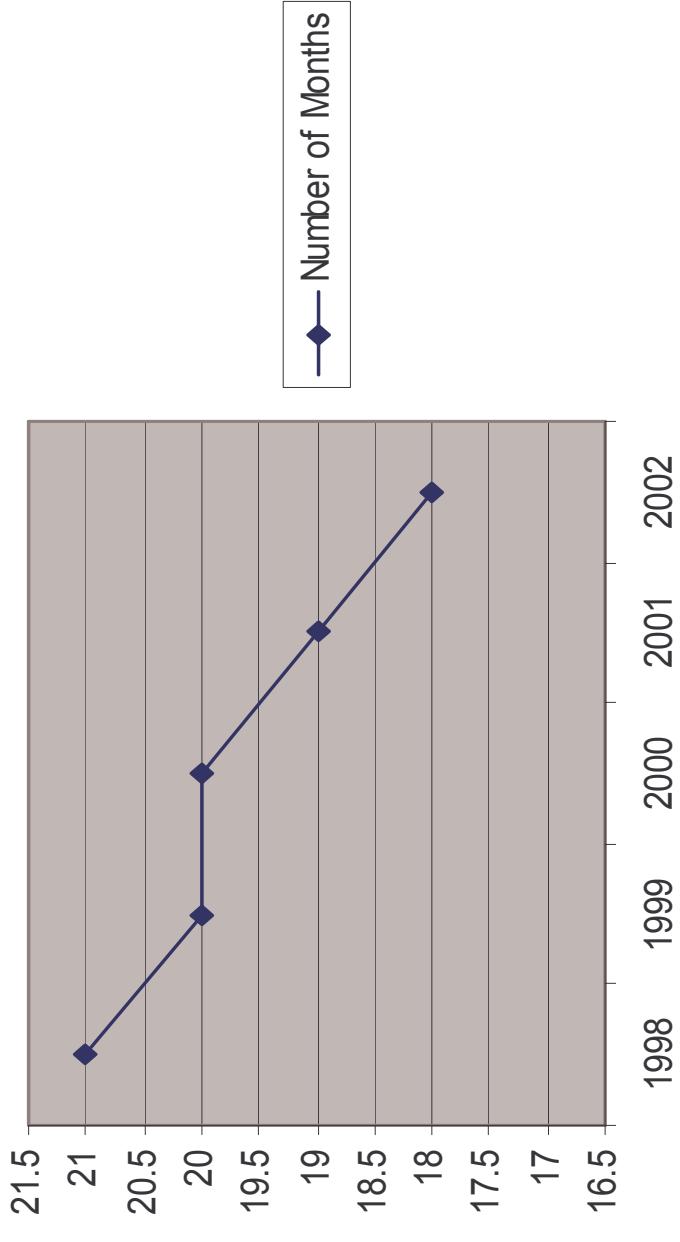
Length of Time in Care

% and Totals of Children Who Stay 5 Years or Longer in Foster Care,
1998- 2002



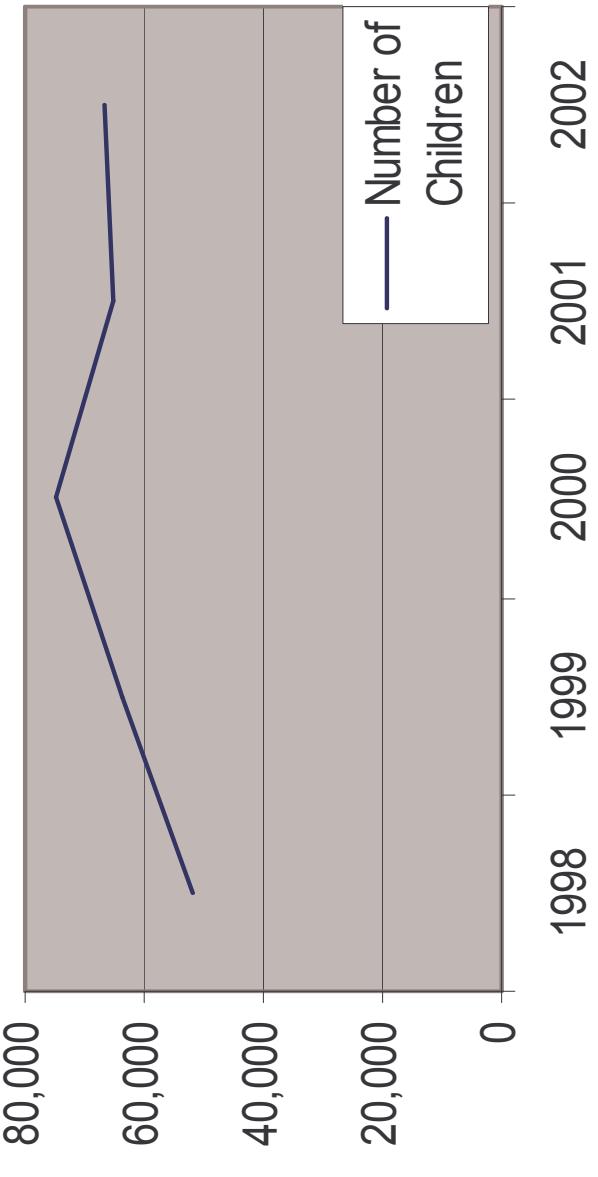
Length of Time in Care

Median Length Children Stay in Foster Care



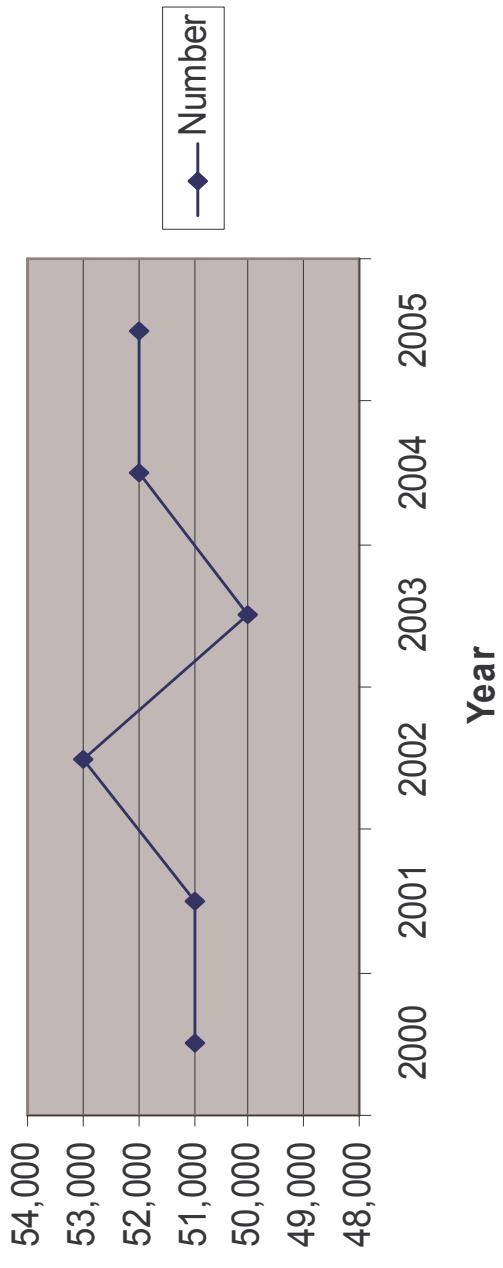
Terminations of Parental Rights

Number of children who had Paternal Rights Terminated, 1998-2002



Adoptions

Number of Children Adopted During the Year
with Child Welfare Involvement



Other Important Legislation

The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 established the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. This program incorporates and expands the former Independent Living Program (ILP) and expands services for after care youth ages 18-21 who have exited care at age 18 or after, but have not reached age 21.

Promoting Safe and Stable Families: Title IV-B, Subpart 2, of the Social Security Act (a reauthorization of the 1993 Family Preservation and Support Act)

Important Challenges

- Wherefore Title IV-E?
 - Training
 - Administration (the perverse incentive)
 - Board

Block Grant?

ASFA?

Welfare Reform?